

Civil/Constitution Rights/Basic Decency

1. Two unauthorized teenaged immigrants who sued the Trump administration to be allowed to obtain abortions while in custody have finally won the right to abortion access. Meanwhile, the legal fight continues over the policy that had prevented them from doing so. The teenagers were being held in government-run shelters for young immigrants who are caught crossing the border illegally and without an adult. But the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), the agency that operates these facilities, had adopted a policy in March prohibiting federally funded shelters from taking “any action that facilitates” an abortion for an unaccompanied minor without the approval of the agency’s director. That director is E. Scott Lloyd, a champion of “religious values” and abortion foe, who was appointed to the position in March. Since the girls were not of age, Lloyd claimed the right to act as their guardian and denied them abortion access. A spokesperson for ORR explained that “When there’s a child in the program who is pregnant, [Lloyd] has been reaching out to her and trying to help as much as possible with life-affirming options.” The young women were represented in court by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and were finally granted abortion access in mid-December. The ACLU is hoping to continue the case as a class-action lawsuit, which would prevent implementation of this ORR policy in the future.

THANKS to

• **American Civil Liberties Union**, 125 Broad St., 18th Floor, NY, NY 10004, (212) 549-2500

CASTIGATION to

• **E. Scott Lloyd**, Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Department of Health and Human Services, Mary E. Switzer Building, 330 C Street SW, Washington DC 20201, (202) 401-9246

REQUEST support for privacy rights and abortion access for minors attempting to enter the U.S. by

• **Senator Chuck Grassley**, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator John Cornyn** (R-TX), Chair Senate Subcommittee on Border • Security and Immigration, 517 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2934

• **Senator Richard Durbin** (D-IL), Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration, 711 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2152

• **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2309 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5431

• **Representative Jerry Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2109 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5635

• **Representative Raúl Labrador** (R-ID), Chair, House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 1523 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6611

• **Representative Zoe Lofgren** (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, 1401 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3072

2. In late December, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that he had revoked twenty-five previous Justice Department letters, which are used as guidelines on interpreting federal laws. The rescinded letters cover topics such practices for shipping guns across state lines, encouraging limited use of fines in the case of low-income defendants, mainstreaming employees with developmental disabilities. Perhaps the best known of these letters was one directing public schools to allow students to use restrooms of the gender they identify with.

CASTIGATION To

- **Attorney General Jeff Sessions**, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530, comment line (202) 353-1555

REQUESTS that Congress use its powers to affirm the rights and practices included in the letter that have been revoked to

- **Assistant Attorney General Stephen E. Boyd**, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530, comment line (202) 353-1555

- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

- **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2309 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5431

- **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2109 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5635

- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

3. Tell your members of Congress that you want a Department of Justice-led investigation into the many credible sexual abuse allegations against Donald Trump.

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

4. In an interview with MSNBC, Congressperson Francis Rooney (R-FL) called for a “purge” (his term) of Trump’s critics from federal law enforcement. This call is problematic in at least two ways: 1) federal law enforcement agencies serve the Constitution and the people of the United States, not the sitting President and 2) purges are the sort of move associated with authoritarian regimes, not democratic governments.

Reminders about the role of federal law enforcement and the nature of democracy to

- **Representative Francis Rooney**, 120 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2536

5, Two California members of the House of Representatives, Mimi Walters and Kevin Calvert, received money from the telecom industry before sending a letter to FCC Chair Ajit Pai, supporting his call for the end of net neutrality. Since 1989, Walters has received a total of \$161,500 from the telecom industry. During that same time, Calvert received a total of \$219,212. **INFORM** these legislators that you will not forget their betrayal of the desires of the American people

• **Representative Mimi Walters** (R-CA), 215 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5611

• **Representative Kevin Calvert** (R-A), 2205 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-1986

6. At the end of November, 223 women who serve or have served in the military, diplomatic positions and development organizations signed an open letter calling on those in power to help combat sexual harassment and assault in the workplace. The letter calls on people and institutions in the national security community to “reduce the incidences of sexual harassment and abuse in the workplace.” To combat sexual harassment, the letter asks people in power in the field to create better channels to report abuse, create better data collection on sexual violence and make employee sexual harassment training and exit interviews mandatory. The 223 women also demanded that the national security community address the “serious gender imbalance” in senior leadership positions. In 2016, there were 6,172 sexual assault cases reported in the military. An anonymous survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Defense last year found that 14,900 service members had experienced some kind of sexual assault —ranging from groping to rape—in 2016.

REQUEST appropriate Congressional oversight to make sure these concerns are addressed

• **Senator John McCain** (R-AZ), Chair, Senate Armed Services Committee, 218 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2235

• **Senator Jack Reed** (D-RI), Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, 728 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4642

• **Representative Mac Thornberry** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Armed Services, 2208 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3706

• **Representative Adam Smith** (D-WA), Ranking Member, House Committee on Armed Services, 2264 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6435

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), Member, House Committee on Armed Services, 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

7. The federal budget, on which Congress will vote January 19, includes a cut to the Social Security Administration of \$400 billion—a 4% cut, bringing to 16% the cuts since 2010. This, despite the fact that the final 2018 appropriation needs to increase to keep pace with inflation and the aging of the baby boomers. We need to make it clear to our Members of Congress that they cannot both support this budget and claim to have the public interest at heart. Unless the 2018 budget restores the full federal contribution to CHIP offers relief to DACA recipients, and includes no cuts to Social Security, we should insist that our representatives in Congress oppose its passage.

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

8. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that it is changing longstanding policy in order to allow the government to use taxpayer money to rebuild houses of worship damaged in disasters. The FEMA policy flies in the face of a December federal district court ruling that Texas churches did not have a right to post-hurricane federal funding to rebuild their facilities used for religious activities. The court explained: “The government has a historical and justifiable interest in avoiding an establishment of religion and using public funds to support religion.” Congress has also been in the mix. In December, the House passed HR4667, the House Emergency Disaster Aid Package, which would force FEMA to provide the grants to houses of worship. (The Senate is still drafting its version of the bill.)

DECRY this violation of one of our most important Constitutional principles

- **William “Brock” Long**, Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, Washington DC 20472.
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

URGE our Senators to oppose similar legislation when it is introduced

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

Immigration

1. The Southern Poverty Law Center is suing the government on behalf of immigrant families who have been subjected to a number of illegal/warrantless searches. In one case ICE Agents threatened immigrants with arrest for not cooperating with a search for a criminal suspect, although no such suspect existed. In another case ICE agents entered a house claiming to be looking for a criminal suspect and only revealed their identity as ICE agents once they were inside. These kinds of illegal actions have been experienced both by documented and undocumented families. “ICE agents preyed upon vulnerable families using fear and lies to improperly enter homes — without cause — and detain people who were legally present in the U.S.,” Lisa Graybill, SPLC’s deputy legal director, said in a statement. “The safety of home and the freedom from unlawful searches and seizures are among America’s most fundamental values, and law enforcement officials at all levels are legally required to protect these constitutional rights. The anything-goes method of the ICE agents in these raids obliterated due process, tore families apart, and did nothing to enhance national security.”

THANKS to

• **Lisa Graybill, SPLC Deputy Legal Director**, 400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36104, (334) 956-8200

COMPLAINTS and REQUESTS for supervision to

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire McKaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

• **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401

• **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

2. Debbie Nathan, an investigative journalist with the ACLU, Texas, tracks people who have been harassed by the state troopers. Initially these people are stopped on the highway for having tinted windows or improperly placed license plates, then the interrogation quickly shifts focus from minor traffic violations to immigration status, leading to immediate hand-over to Border Patrol agents, immediately separating family members. "The troopers are forbidden from directly doing immigration enforcement," Nathan said, "[which is] directly enforcing federal immigration law.... Passengers and pedestrians who weren't even driving are also taken into custody." The latest figures by the Department of Homeland Security released earlier this month show that "interior removals," the kind in which Texas Troopers have been participating have surged" this year.

THANKS to

• **Debbie Nathan, Investigative Journalist, Texas ACLU**, P.O. Box 8306, Houston, TX 77288-8306, (713) 942-8146

COMPLAINTS to

• **Gary Chandler, President**, Department of Public Safety Officers Association

• **Clay Taylor, Vice-President**, Department of Public Safety Officers Association

• **Jimmy Jackson, Secretary/Treasurer**, Department of Public Safety Officers Association

ALL of the above officers at 5821 Airport Blvd., Austin, TX 78752, (512) 424-2000

• **Governor Greg Abbott**, Office of the Governor, P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711, (512) 463-2000

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3. On December 5, the Department of Homeland Security released its end-of-year immigration enforcement numbers, which they claim demonstrate the DHS is “upholding the integrity of our lawful immigration system, and keeping America safe.” Despite these claims about public safety, Human Rights Watch found that the number of people detained inside the U.S. rather than at the border — meaning that they were not new arrivals — increased by 42 percent over last year. Immigration arrests of people with no criminal convictions nearly tripled. From Donald Trump’s Inauguration Day to the end of this fiscal year, 110,568 people were arrested inside the U.S., compared to 77,806 during the same time period in 2016. Among those, 31,888 had no criminal convictions, compared with 11,500 during the same period in 2016. “The recently released numbers by DHS confirm what we know from interviewing dozens of people who were recently deported: that these are mothers, fathers, spouses of U.S. citizens, long-term immigrants who have been ripped from the interior of the country under a system that takes very little count of their ties to the U.S.,” Grace Meng, a Human Rights Watch senior researcher said in an interview with *The Intercept*.

THANKS to

- **Grace Meng, Senior Researcher**, Human Rights Watch, 1630 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 500 Washington, DC 20009, organization phone number (202) 612-4321

COMPLAINTS to

- **Kirstjen M. Nielsen, Secretary**, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495

- **Thomas D. Homan**, Deputy Director and Senior Official, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, organization public affairs (202) 732-4242

COMPLAINTS and REQUESTS for supervision to

- **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

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4. The Inspector General for the Department of Homeland Security has criticized several immigration detention facilities for having spoiled and moldy food, inadequate medical care, illegal strip searches, inappropriate treatment of detainees, and bathrooms without running water; for interfering with Muslims’ prayers; and for refusing to allow detainees to contact the Inspector General’s Office (to which detainees have a legal right). Acting Inspector General John V. Kelly, who took over Dec. 1, said the watchdog agency identified problems at four detention centers during recent, unannounced visits to five facilities. The report said the flaws “undermine the protection of detainees’ rights, their humane treatment, and the provision of a safe and healthy

environment.” ICE concurred with the inspector general’s findings and said it is taking action to fix the problems, some of which have already been addressed.

THANKS to

- **John V. Kelly, Acting Inspector General**, Department of Homeland Security, Washington DC 20528, comment line 202-282-8495

REQUESTS for promised follow-through to

- **Kirstjen M. Nielsen, Secretary**, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495

- **Thomas D. Homan, Deputy Director and Senior Official**, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, organization public affairs (202) 732-4242

COMPLAINTS and REQUESTS for supervision to

- **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

- **Senator Claire McKaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

- **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401

- **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

5. A Justice Department memo issued December 20 contains changes to guidelines for questioning unaccompanied children in the country illegally, and directs judges to try such cases fairly despite any "sympathetic allegations" that such cases may include. The memo, issued by the Executive Office for Immigration Review, eliminates previously-issued language instructing officials on “child-sensitive questioning” and now requests judges be skeptical of minors who it says may be abusing the system. Other changes to department policy include changes to rules meant to make unaccompanied minors comfortable before court proceedings. Language that previously allowed children to explore a courtroom before trial proceedings, including the judge's bench, has been changed to allow this only “to the extent that resources and time permit.” The judge's bench is now strictly off limits.

COMPLAINTS to

- **Attorney General Jeff Sessions**, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530, comment line (202) 353-1555

- **Assistant Attorney General Stephen E. Boyd**, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530, comment line (202) 353-1555

- **Acting Director James McHenry**, Executive Office for Immigration Review, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, (703) 305-0289

- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

- **Representative Bob Goodlatte** (R-VA), Chair, House Judiciary Committee, 2309 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5431
- **Representative Jerrold Nadler** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee, 2109 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5635

6. The Trump administration is considering a plan to separate parents from their children when families are caught entering the country illegally. The move is meant to discourage border crossings, but immigrant groups have denounced it as inhumane. Currently, families are kept intact while awaiting a decision on whether they will be deported. The policy under discussion would send parents to adult detention facilities, while their children would be placed in shelters designed for juveniles or with a “sponsor.” In November, 7,000 “family units” were apprehended, as well as 4,000 “unaccompanied minors,” or children traveling without an adult relative. This fall, the White House convened a group of officials from two of its own offices — the National Security Council and the Domestic Policy Council — as well as from Homeland Security, the Department of Justice and the State Department, to look into ways to curtail border crossings, particularly those of children. The family separation policy is among the solutions being considered.

COMPLAINTS to

- **H. R. McMaster, National Security Adviser**, White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, comment line (202) 353-1555
- **Andrew P. Bremberg, Director**, Domestic Policy Council, Room 469, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20502, 202-456-5594
- **Kirstjen M. Nielsen, Secretary**, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495
- **Attorney General Jeff Sessions**, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530, comment line (202) 353-1555
- **Secretary Rex Tillerson**, US Department of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520, (202) 647-4000

7. More than 70 members of Congress criticized the Department of Homeland Security in a December 18 letter for failing to investigate thousands of sexual assault complaints filed by immigrants in their custody over the last decade. The letter was addressed to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, the Acting Director of ICE, the Justice Department’s Inspector General, and the Acting Inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security. The signators called for an immediate investigation of these complaints. The letter results from a class-action civil rights complaint filed April 11 with Homeland Security by Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC). The letter states, “We write to express our deep concerns about the prevalence of reports of sexual abuse, assault and harassment in U.S. immigration detention facilities, the lack of adequate government investigation into these reports, and the government’s refusal to disclose relevant records.” According to CIVIC, Homeland Security received a total of 33,126 complaints of sexual and/or physical abuse from January 2010 to July 2016. Of those, only 225—or 0.07%—have been investigated. Three-fourth of these complaints were levied against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CPB) officers and personnel.

SUPPORT the demands made by these congress members

- **Kirstjen M. Nielsen, Secretary**, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495
- **Thomas D. Homan**, Deputy Director and Senior Official, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, organization public affairs (202) 732-4242
- **Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General**, Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 4706, Washington DC 20530
- **John V. Kelly, Acting Inspector General**, Department of Homeland Security, Washington DC 20528, comment line (202) 282-8495

REQUEST support from our Congressperson who was not one of the seventy signators

- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

8. Donald Trump has announced that he will not accept any new version of DACA (Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals, often referred to as “Dreamers”) unless it includes funding for his border wall and changes to existing visa programs. This program, supported by the majority of Americans and by legislators on both sides of the aisle has been held hostage for since Trump cancelled the program (which he claims to support), as Mitch McConnell has consistently delayed action on legislation on this topic. This failure to act puts more and more Americans at risk each day, thousands each month—Americans who have attended our schools and are making significant contributions to our society. Using these Americans as a political bargaining chip is unacceptable.

DEMAND immediate action on DACA on its own *without* using the legislation as a way of forcing through unpopular programs

- **Donald Trump**, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111
- **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Chair, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224- 2541
- **Representative Paul Ryan** (D-WI), Speaker of the House, 1233 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3031
- **Senator Chuck Schumer** (D-NY), Senate Minority Leader, 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224- 6542
- **Representative Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), House Minority Leader, 233 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4965
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

9. The Justice Department is pushing for a question on citizenship to be added to the 2020 census, a move that could depress participation by immigrants who fear that the government could use the information against them. Lowered participation, in turn, could have potentially large ripple effects for everything the once-a-decade census determines — from how

congressional seats are distributed around the country to where hundreds of billions of federal dollars are spent. The letter requesting this citizenship question argues that the DOJ needs better citizenship data to better enforce the Voting Rights Act “and its important protections against racial discrimination in voting,” though it’s not immediately clear how information related to citizenship is related to voting discrimination.

OBJECT to this proposed change to the census to

- **Secretary Wilbur Ross**, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington DC 20230, main phone line (202) 482-2000
- **Attorney General Jeff Sessions**, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530, comment line (202) 353-1555
- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

10. Thomas Homan, the Acting Director (nominated for the Director position) of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has stated that politicians in sanctuary cities (cities that limit their cooperation with federal immigration law) should be charged with crimes: "We gotta take [sanctuary cities] to court, and we gotta start charging some of these politicians with crimes."

CHASTIZE the Acting Director for overreach and disregarding states’ and cities’ regulations and desires.

- **Thomas D. Homan**, Deputy Director and Senior Official, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 500 12th St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20536, organization public affairs (202) 732-4242

COMPLAINTS and REQUESTS that the proposed policy not be enacted to

- **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323
- **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154
- **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401
- **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

GUNS

1. New York City, Philadelphia, and San Francisco have filed suit against the Department of Defense over its legal failure to report service members’ crimes to the FBI and national gun background check database. One example of the consequences of this failure to report was the shootings by Devin Patrick Kelley who killed more than two dozen people in a Texas church in November. Kelley had been convicted of domestic abuse while in the military, which should

have made him ineligible to purchase firearms, but the Department of Defense never reported this conviction to the appropriate agencies.

THANK the cities filing this suit and their legal counsels

- **Mayor Bill de Blasio**, City Hall, New York, NY 10007, (212) NEW-YORK
- **Zachary W. Carter, Corporation Counsel for the City of New York**, City of New York Law Department, 100 Church St., NY, NY 10007, (212) 356-1000
- **Mayor Jim Kenney**, City Hall, Office 215, Philadelphia, PA 19107, (215) 686-2181
- **Sozi Pedro Tulante, City Solicitor**, One Parkway Building, 17th Floor, 1515 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102-1595, (215) 683-5001
- **Acting Mayor London Breed**, Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689, (415) 554-7630 - voice
- **City Attorney Dennis Herrera**, City Hall, Room 234, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl., San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 554-4700

DEMAND that the Department of Defense begin fulfilling its legal obligation to report service members' crimes to the FBI and national gun background check database

- Secretary James M. Mattis, 1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1000, public communications 703-571-3343

2. On the anniversary of the Sandy Hook massacre, not only did Donald Trump fail to offer even a tweet honoring the lives lost, he also played host in the White House to Wayne LaPierre, Executive Vice President of the National Rifle Association.

CRITIQUE this display of insensitivity to American lives lost

- **Donald Trump**, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111

BUSINESS

1. Steve Bannon is back on SiriusXM radio, hosting "Breitbart News Daily" on the "Patriot Channel." We've got a couple of problems here. Problem 1: Steve Bannon. Problem 2: Calling Breitbart "news." Problem 3: Lumping the concept of patriotism together with the likes of Bannon and Breitbart fake news.

COMPLAINTS about programming and channel naming to

- **James E. Meyer**, CEO
- **Scott Greenstein**, President and Chief Content Office
- **Dara Altman**, Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer
- **Patrick L. Donnelly**, Executive Vice president and General Counsel
- **David J. Frear**, Executive VP and CFO

ALL can be reached at

SiriusXM 1221 Avenue of the Americas, NY NY 10020, (212) 584-5100

2. Amazon is one of the few remaining corporate sponsors of Breitbart. Tell Amazon's leadership to quit funding hate and climate change denial.

DEMAND better from this powerful company

- **Jeffrey Bezos**, Chairman, President, CEO, Amazon.com Inc., 1200 12th Ave. South, Suite 1200, Seattle, WA 98144-2734, (206) 266-1000

• **John Clark**, Executive Customer Relations, P.O. Box 81226, Seattle, WA 98108-1226, (800) 201-7575

CYBER SECURITY

1. Investigators from the *Wall Street Journal* have found that many comments on a Department of Labor (DOL) web page regarding the “fiduciary rule” (which legally obliges investment counsellors to work in the best interests of their clients) are false. Commenting requires disclosing one’s name, address, phone, and email; anonymous comments are not accepted. The WSJ hired Mercury Analytics to contact posters of public comments—focusing on those not by individuals affiliated by industry or consumer groups. Twenty of 345 individuals contacted said they had not made the comments credited to them, even though the personal information attached was theirs. Almost all of the false comments opposed the fiduciary rule—claiming in one way or another that the commenter did not expect/want investment counsellors to work in their clients’ best interests. Similar problems regarding false comments also arose during the move up to the rescinding of net neutrality rules.

DEMAND that no decisions be made using these comments on the DOL web site until the issue of falsified comments had been resolved

• **Secretary R. Alexander Acosta**, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave. NW , Washington DC 20210, (866) 4-USA-DOL

DEMAND an investigation of falsified comments on government comment pages

• **Senator Ron Johnson**, Chair, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire McKaskill**, Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

EDUCATION

1. Education Betsy DeVos has announced her latest move benefitting for-profit colleges at the expense of students they mislead and defraud. As explained in the *New Republic*: “Imagine a car dealer sold you a lemon. You sue to get your money back. But the judge discovers that you managed to get yourself around most of the time, despite the bum vehicle. You only missed 10 percent of your appointments, so the judge orders that you are entitled to 10 percent of the price of the car. That’s essentially what Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced last week for students defrauded by for-profit chain Corinthian Colleges. Victims of the corrupt diploma mill will not have their student loans discharged; instead, they will get a portion of relief based on their current income. The more professional ingenuity they showed despite being defrauded by Corinthian, the less money they will get in restitution.” California Attorney General Xavier Becerra has filed suit to challenge this policy.

THANKS to

• **Attorney General Xavier Becerra**, Attorney General's Office, California Department of Justice, P.O. Box 944255, Sacramento, CA 94244-2550, public inquiry line (916) 210-6276

COMPLAINTS to

- **Secretary Betsy DeVos**, U.S. Department of Education, 7W301 LBJ Building, Mail Number 0100, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington DC 20202, (202) 401-3000
- **Senator Lamar Alexander** (R-TN), Chair, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 405 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4944
- **Senator Patty Murray** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 154 Russell Senate Office Building. Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2621

2. A higher education reform bill proposed by House Republicans would write anti-LGBTQ discrimination into the law in the disguise of “religious freedom.” HR 4508, authored by Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), contains two provisions clearly designed to enable discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The bill’s name, “Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform” (the PROSPER Act), suggests it creates opportunities, but a section called “Campus Access for Religious Groups” would add a new provision to the law that would guarantee that student groups can refuse membership or leadership positions on the basis of their identity. Another section of the PROSPER Act has language that would protect universities that implement discriminatory processes. It mirrors other proposed bills like the First Amendment Defense Act, designed designed to protect businesses and organizations wishing to refuse service to LGBTQ people. Combined, these provisions would create a sweeping anti-LGBTQ license to discriminate in higher education. Universities would not be allowed to punish student groups that discriminate, and states would not be allowed to punish universities that discriminate. HR 4508 has been passed by the House Education and the Workforce Committee; the next step is a vote of the full House.

DECRY the author of this legislation intended to enable discrimination

- Representative Virginia Foxx (R-SC), 2262 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2071

ASK our Representative to fight this anti-LGBT legislation

- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

ENVIRONMENT

1. The Trump administration is reportedly moving to roll back a series of safety regulations related to offshore drilling. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) in December submitted a proposal to the White House Budget Office seeking to revise safety measures, estimating that it would save more than \$900 million over the next decade. The proposal would largely affect safety regulations that were put in place by the Obama administration after the 2010 Deep Horizon disaster, the largest oil spill in U.S. history. Industry officials argue the safety rules are too broad, and the Trump administration appears to agree. The BSEE has proposed eliminating a requirement that regulators review real-time production data from oil companies, as well as a requirement that they approve critical drilling equipment from third-party vendors, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. At the same time, BSEE has ordered a halt to a major study by the National Academies of Science meant to improve how regulators enforce offshore oil and natural gas drilling safety. Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) has announced that he will use the Congressional Review Act to block the safety rules rollback.

THANKS for preparing to fight these rule rollbacks to

- **Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL)**, 716 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5274

COMPLAINTS to

- **Director Scott A. Angelle**, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20240, (202) 208-6184

- **Secretary Ryan Zinke**, Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-3100

- **Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)**, Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 522 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6665

- **Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA)**, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 511 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3441

2. The California State Water Board has confirmed allegations that Nestlé Waters North is taking water from the San Bernardino National Forest in Southern California to which it has no legal claim. The Water Board has directed Nestlé to limit its water take to an annual 8.5 million gallons. Nestlé takes, on average, 62.6 million gallons a year to supply its Arrowhead brand water bottles. Nestlé must immediately cease any unauthorized diversions. This includes a series of well complexes in the San Bernardino National Forest from which Nestlé draws the majority of its water.

THANKS to

- **California State Water Resources Control Board**, PO Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100, Office of Public Affairs (916) 341-7365

COMPLAINTS to

- **Nestlé Waters North America**, 900 Long Ridge Road, Building 2, Stamford, CT 06902-1138, 888-747-7437

3. The Interior Department has rolled back an Obama-era policy aimed at protecting migratory birds, stating that it will no longer prosecute oil and gas, wind, and solar operators that accidentally kill birds. The new interpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), which was issued in late December, marks a win for energy interests that described the federal government's previous position as overreaching. Before Trump's inauguration, the Department of the Interior had issued an opinion declaring that operators could face legal liability for the incidental deaths of birds ensnared by uncovered oil-waste pits or unmarked transmission lines.

COMPLAINTS to

- **Secretary Ryan Zinke**, Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-3100

- **Senator John Barrasso (R-WY)**, Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441

- **Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE)**, Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 513 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441

- **Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA)**, Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

4. Pending federal rules regarding the treatment of animals being raised for meat or eggs to be certified organic are being gutted. Under the rules, which were set to go into effect in March, producers and handlers participating in the National Organic Program were required to house poultry in spaces big enough for the birds to move freely, stretch their wings, stand normally and engage in natural behaviors and to provide livestock access to an outdoor space year-round and to house them in indoor pens that are sufficiently large, solidly built and comfortable so that the animals are kept clean, dry and free of lesions. USDA said it's concerned the rules will stunt innovation and growth of the organic industry.

COMPLAINTS to

- **Secretary Sonny Purdue**, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, DC 20250, (202) 720-2791
- **Senator Pat Roberts** (R-KS), Chair, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4774
- **Senator Debbie Stabenow** (D-MI), Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, 731 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4822

5. New York City's mayor and the state's attorney general are planning a hearing on the Trump administration's plan to repeal former President Obama's climate change rule for power plants. Mayor Bill de Blasio and Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, both Democrats, announced their plan for a "people's hearing," complaining that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rebuffed their calls for a formal hearing on the matter in New York. The only formal hearing the EPA held on this issue was in Charleston, WV.

SUGGEST to our Attorney General that he hold a similar hearing or hearings

- **Attorney General Xavier Becerra**, Attorney General's Office, California Department of Justice, P.O. Box 944255, Sacramento, CA 94244-2550, public inquiry line (916) 210-6276

6. The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a 2012 ban on uranium mining in the Grand Canyon complies with the Constitution and federal environmental laws, and that the protected area was not too large, as plaintiff mining companies had argued. The ban protects the aquifers and streams that feed the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon from toxic uranium-mining waste pollution and water depletion. Unfortunately, the court also rejected a challenge to the Canyon Mine, a uranium mine located on the Kaibab National Forest six miles south of Grand Canyon National Park. The court's decision allows Energy Fuels Inc. to mine without initiating or completing formal tribal consultations and without updating an obsolete federal environmental review dating to 1986. The suit was filed by the Havasupai Tribe and a coalition of conservation groups.

THANK these groups for their efforts on behalf of us and our planet

- **Havasupai Tribe**, PO Box 10, Supai, AZ 86435, (928) 448-2731
- **Earthjustice**, 505 California St. #500, San Francisco, CA 94111, (303) 996-9622
- **Grand Canyon Chapter, Sierra Club**, 514 West Roosevelt St., Phoenix, AZ 85003, (602) 999-5790
- **Grand Canyon Trust**, 2601 North Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001, (928) 890-7515
- **Center for Biological Diversity**, 1212 Broadway #800, Oakland, CA 94612, (801) 300-2414

• **National Parks Conservation Association**, 777 6th St. NW #700, Washington DC 20001-3723, (202) 223-6722

7. Bad news: The Trump 2018 budget proposes eliminating the Department of Energy (DOE). As reported in *Science*, anticipating its own demise, the Department of Energy had halted its process to award \$91 million in new grants that the Energy Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency created to fund high-risk, high-reward new ideas about energy. Cancelling the 26 projects originally funded would have cut jobs in nineteen states. Good news: A review by the Government Accounting Office found this use of a proposed budget to gut current programs is illegal.

DEMAND that the DOE do the job it's supposed to do, which includes developing new energy technologies

• **Secretary Rick Perry**, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave SW, Washington DC 20585, main switchboard (202) 586-5000

• **Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 522 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6665

• **Senator Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 511 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3441

8. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's official has recommended drastic changes to three of the country's five marine monuments. If President Trump accepts the plans, 62 million acres of remote coral reefs and islands in the Pacific, protected as Rose Atoll and the Pacific Remote Islands National Monuments, would be open to commercial fishing and reduced in size. In the Atlantic, slightly more than 3 million acres of submerged mountains and deepwater corals—the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument—would be fished commercially as well. These three monuments were all set aside because they encompass some of the rarest habitats within U.S. boundaries. Rose Atoll, two islands and a coral reef ring near American Samoa, serves as the breeding spot for 97% of seabirds in the region. The Pacific Remote Islands host the world's largest Sooty Tern colony, as well as endangered Phoenix Petrels and rarely seen White-throated Storm-petrels. The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument is a safe breeding ground for fish that grow up to support fisheries and, during the winter months, Atlantic Puffins.

CONDEMN this threat to irreplaceable natural resources

• **Secretary Ryan Zinke**, Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-3100

• **Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 522 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6665

• **Senator Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 511 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3441

9. An analysis of EPA enforcement data by the *New York Times* shows that the Trump administration and new EPA head Scott Pruitt have adopted a more lenient approach than the previous two administrations — Democratic and Republican — toward polluters. During the first

nine months under Mr. Pruitt's leadership, the E.P.A. started about 1,900 cases, about one-third fewer than the number under President Barack Obama's first E.P.A. director and about one-quarter fewer than under President George W. Bush's over the same time period. In addition, the agency sought civil penalties of about \$50.4 million from polluters for cases initiated under Mr. Trump. Adjusted for inflation, that is about 39 percent of what the Obama administration sought and about 70 percent of what the Bush administration sought over the same time period. The E.P.A. can force companies to retrofit their factories to cut pollution, but those demands have dropped sharply. The agency has demanded about \$1.2 billion worth of such fixes, known as injunctive relief, in cases initiated during the nine-month period, which, adjusted for inflation, is about 12 percent of what was sought under Mr. Obama and 48 percent under Mr. Bush. E.P.A. enforcement officers across the country no longer have the authority to order certain air and water pollution tests, known as requests for information, without receiving permission from Washington. In the last two complete fiscal years of the Obama administration, the E.P.A.'s office in Chicago sent requests for testing that covered an average of 50 facilities per year—about 4.2 each month. By comparison, after the policy changes, one such request for a single facility was made in the subsequent four-month period.

DEMAND more thorough environmental testing and effective enforcement of existing environmental regulations from

- **EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**, Mail Code 1101A, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20460
- **Senator John Barrasso** (R-WY), Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6441
- **Senator Thomas Carper** (D-DE), Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 513 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2441
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

10. NASA performs critical climate science research—its satellites track hurricanes like Maria, Harvey, and Irma, and the wildfires in California—and the pollution fueling these disasters. Yet, Trump has nominated Jim Bridenstine, a member of Congress from Oklahoma, who is not a scientist, to run NASA. In fact, Bridenstine is a climate denier. In 2013 he demanded that President Obama apologize for spending NASA money on global warming. Furthermore, Bridenstine seeks to privatize space exploration, selling off NASA's critical role to for-profit corporations. NASA needs to be kept out of politics. Florida's two senators, Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio, have already voiced concern about Bridenstine's political baggage. And, equally important, NASA needs to be run by someone who respects science. Not climate denier Jim Bridenstine.

ASK our Senators to oppose this terrible pick when it comes to the floor of the Senate

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

11. At the end of December, the Bureau of Land Management repealed proposed Obama-era regulations setting standards for fracking. These regulations required disclosure of the chemicals used in fracking, the covering of fracking fluid ponds, and set standards for fracking wells. The BLM claims that the repeal will “prevent the unnecessarily burdensome and unjustified administrative requirements and compliance costs of the 2015 rule from encumbering oil and gas development on federal and Indian lands.”

COMPLAINTS to

- **Deputy Director Brian Steed**, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St. NW, Room 5665, Washington DC 20240, (202) 208-3801
- **Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK), Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 522 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6665
- **Senator Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 511 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3441
- **Senator Mike Lee** (R-UT), Chair, Senate Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, 361A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5444
- **Senator Ron Wyden** (D-OR), Ranking Member, Senate Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, 221 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5244
- **Representative Rob Bishop** (R-UT), Chair, House Committee on Natural Resources, 123 Cannon House office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-0453
- **Representative Raul Grijalva** (D-AZ), Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources, 1511 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2435
- **Representative Paul Gosar** (R-AZ), Chair, Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, 2057 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2315
- **Representative Alan Lowenthal**, Ranking Member, Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, 125 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-7924

12. The GOP has created a new bill, HR3990, the "National Monument Creation and Protection Act." Despite what its name might imply, it is, in fact, designed to inhibit the creation and limit the size of future National Monuments. The bill was created by Rep. Rob Bishop, who has a history of authoring anti-environment legislation. This bill, which is being co-sponsored by eight other Republican Representatives (two of whom are from California), would prohibit the president from creating new national monuments larger than 85,000 acres and add a requirement that all state and county officials approve their creation. Without their approval, new monuments would be limited to a tiny fraction of that size: 640 Acres if within 50 miles of another monument, and 5000 if not.

CONDEM this attempt by the legislation’s author and cosponsors to weaken our system for creating National Monuments

- **Representative Rob Bishop** (R-UT), 123 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-0453
- **Representative Tom McClintock** (R-CA), 2312 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2511

• **Representative Doug LaMalfa** (R-CA), 322 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3076

URGE our local Representative to strongly oppose this legislation

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861)

JUDICIAL/ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Trump continues to present controversial nominees for federal judgeships. One of the most recent is Thomas Alvin Farr, nominated to serve on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Farr is a former protégé of Jesse Helms with strong ties to white supremacists. As counsel for Mr. Helms's Senate campaigns, Farr participated in racist tactics to intimidate African-American voters. A New York Times op-ed notes that "Mr. Farr has carried on Mr. Helms's legacy by helping North Carolina's Republican-led Legislature create and defend in court discriminatory voting restrictions and electoral districts, which were eventually struck down by numerous federal courts that found them to be motivated by intentional racism. In fact, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit found that the state's 2013 voter suppression law was aimed at blacks with 'almost surgical precision.'" Farr's nomination has cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee and now faces a vote by the full Senate.

ARGUE that bigotry of this kind has no place on the federal bench

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

2. Republicans in the Senate are reportedly considering legislation that would cut the time available to debate the appointment of political nominees, claiming that Democrats are deliberately using procedural moves to delay the appointment process. The resolution being considered would lower the amount of debate time available for non-cabinet level appointees from thirty hours to eight hours. Debate for district court nominees would be reduced to two hours.

INSIST that legislators be given sufficient time to debate appointments to these crucial positions

• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Chair, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224- 2541

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

3. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced in late December that 2018 will be a year of bipartisanship in the Senate: "We're gonna be looking for areas of bipartisan agreement

because that's the way the Senate is." While we may view these remarks cynically, we should hold McConnell to his word.

THANKS for considering bipartisanship and **URGINGS** that this be followed through on to
• **Senator Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Senate Chair, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224- 2541

4. At the moment, it's unclear whether the President has a Constitutional right to order a nuclear first strike. Last year, Senator Ed Markey and Representative Tom Lieu introduced legislation that "would prohibit the President from launching a nuclear first strike without a declaration of war by Congress." The Senate bill is S200 and is currently with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; the House one is HR669 and is currently before the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Let our members of Congress know that this legislation is long overdue for the safety of the U.S. and the safety of the world. Congress needs to assert its power to reign in Trump.

THANKS for authoring this legislation to

• **Senator Ed Markey** (D-MA), 255 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2742

• **Representative Ted Lieu** (D-CA), 236 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3976

URGINGS to move this legislation out of committee for congressional debate and votes to

• **Senator Bob Corker** (R-TN), Chair, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 425 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3344

• **Senator Ben Cardin** (D-MD), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 509 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4524

• **Representative Ed Royce** (R-CA), Chair, House Foreign Relations Committee, 2310 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4111

• **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, 2462 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2464

THANKS for cosponsoring the legislation before their congressional body to

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

REQUEST that she cosponsor the Senate version of this legislation to

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

5. Thomas Brunell, a Texas professor who has testified in the support of Republican-engineered gerrymandering schemes and written a book entitled *Redistricting and Representation: Why Competitive Elections are Bad for America* is poised to be appointed as deputy director of the U.S. Census Bureau. Because the 2020 Census count will determine the allocation of representatives and affect how political districts are drawn, Brunell's leadership of the Bureau could undermine democracy for decades. He has proven he is hostile to objective and fair

redistricting efforts, and we need an experienced statistician and career civil servant to keep the 2020 Census on track.

DEMAND fairness and competence from the Census Bureau

- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

ELECTIONS

1. Trump has disbanded his Commission on Voting Integrity after repeated legal battles. In one case, a federal judge had to order Trump's voter fraud commission to turn over internal documents to one of its Democratic Commissioners who had accused the panel of withholding crucial information from him. The ruling is a victory for Maine Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap, who filed a lawsuit in November against the commission that Trump appointed him to because he had received no information about the commission's activities since its last public meeting on Sept. 12 and said he had been excluded from communications in which the commission's work was discussed.

THANKS for speaking up and helping to end this sham commission to

- **Matthew Dunlap**, Member, President's Commission on Voting Integrity, 111 Sewall St #4, Augusta, ME 04330, 207-626-8400

2. Doug Jones' recent victory in the special election to appoint a new Alabama Senator was largely due to exceptionally high turn-out among African American voters. Not surprisingly, Republicans are deliberately and systematically setting up barriers to stop many African Americans and Latinos from voting. The NAACP notes that more than 100,000 registered voters in Alabama can't vote because they do not have the photo identification required by the state, a group that is disproportionately people of color.

DEMAND an end to voter ID laws that unfairly disenfranchise communities of color

- **Senator Richard Shelby** (R-AL), Chairman, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 304 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5744
- **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), Ranking Member, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3244
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Member, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

3. The bipartisan Honest Ads Act (S 1989, HR 4077) seeks to enhance the integrity of American democracy and national security by improving disclosure requirements for online political advertisements in order to uphold the United States Supreme Court's well-established standard that the electorate bears the right to be fully informed. This legislation is one response to Russian

interference in the 2016 Presidential election. This legislation is currently before the Senate Rules and Administration Committee and the House Administration Committee.

EXPRESS your **SUPPORT** for this Act to the original Senate and House proposers

- **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN) [Ranking Member of Senate Rules and Administration Committee], 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3244

- **Representative Deke Kilmer** (D-WA), 1520v Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5916

ASK the committees currently examining this legislation to quickly move it forward to the full Congress

- **Senator Richard Shelby** (R-AL), Chairman, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 304 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5744

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Member, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

- **Representative Gregg Harper** (R-MS), Chair, House Administration Committee, 2227 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-5031

- **Representative Robert Brady** (D-PA), Ranking Member, House Administration Committee, 2004 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 225-4731

4. California is home to seven Republican House members representing districts that Hilary Clinton won in the 2016 Presidential election and who have consistently voted in favor of the policies of the Donald Trump administration, including the removal of health care coverage, corporate tax breaks, reducing consumer protections from Wall Street and big banks, and lowering environmental standards.

LET THEM KNOW that California is disappointed in them and will remember their embrace of extreme positions when they next run for public office

- **Representative Jeff Denham**, 1730 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4540

- **Representative Darrell Issa**, 2269 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3906

- **Representative Steve Knight**, 1023 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-1956

- **Representative Dana Rohrabacher**, 2300 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2415

- **Representative Ed Royce**, 2310 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4111

- **Representative Mimi Walters**, 215 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5611

- **Representative David Valadao**, 1728 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4695

5. S1231 and HR2669 would require states to allow all voters a vote-by-mail option, limit barriers to voting, require that voter registration be available at DMVs, and provide more time for settling registration problems. S 1231 is currently before the Senate Committee on Rules and

Administration. HR 2669 is with both the Committee on House Administration and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

URGE that these measures be moved to the full Senate and House

- **Senator Richard Shelby** (R-AL), Chairman, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 304 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5744
- **Senator Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN), Ranking Member, Senate Rules and Administration Committee, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3244
- Representative Gregg Harper (R-MS), Chair, Committee on House Administration, 2227 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5031
- **Representative Robert Brady** (D-PA), Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration, 2004 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4731
- **Representative Trey Gowdy** (R-SC), Chair, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 2418 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6030
- **Representative Elijah Cummings** (D-MD), Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 2163 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4741

THANK our Senators for cosponsoring S1231

- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841
- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

ASK our representative to sign on as a cosponsor for HR2669

- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

INTERNATIONAL

1. Myanmar is refusing to allow entry to U.N. human rights investigator Yanghee Lee, who was due to visit the nation in January. After a visit to Myanmar in July, Ms. Lee raised concerns over the treatment of Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine. Aid group Doctors without Borders estimates at least 6,700 Rohingya were killed in Myanmar between 25 August and 24 September, while the UN has said the actions of state forces in Myanmar against Rohingya could potentially be classed as an act of genocide. As a result of anti-Rohingya violence more than 650,000 Rohingya—about two thirds of the entire population—have fled to Bangladesh.

ASK for a firm demand from the US that U.N. investigations be conducted unimpeded and that violence against the Rohingya be ended

- **Secretary of State Rex Tillerson**, US Department of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520, main switchboard 202-647-4000
- **Senator Bob Corker**, Chair, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 425 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3344
- **Senator Ben Cardin**, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 509 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4524
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

- **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553
- **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

2. It's been one year since Egypt detained Al Jazeera journalist Mahmoud Hussein. He has been accused of "incitement against state institutions and broadcasting false news with the aim of spreading chaos," but has still had no formal charges filed against him. Sherif Mansour of the international Committee to Protect Journalists said: "Egyptian authorities are waging a systematic campaign against Al Jazeera, consisting of arbitrary arrest, censorship, and systematic harassment." Hussein has worked for Al Jazeera for many years. As part of its Cairo bureau he covered the 2011 revolution that toppled Hosni Mubarak. When Al Jazeera's Cairo bureau was closed in 2013, Hussein moved to the network's Doha bureau. He was arrested in December 2016 when he travelled from Qatar to Egypt.

URGE the appropriate officials to fight for Hussein's release and to end the silencing of Al Jazeera in Egypt

- **Ambassador Yasser Reda**, Egyptian Embassy, 3521 International Ct. NW, Washington DC 20008, (202) 966-6342
- **Secretary of State Rex Tillerson**, US Department of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520, main switchboard 202-647-4000
- **Senator Bob Corker**, Chair, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 425 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3344
- **Senator Ben Cardin**, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 509 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4524

3. As the Rohingya flee ethnic cleansing in Myanmar, women are at particular risk. Human rights groups have long accused the Tatmadaw, as the country's security forces are known, of regular assault of Rohingya girls and women. But the latest campaign of gang rape against the Rohingya has been so brutal and systematic that Pramila Patten, a United Nations special representative on sexual violence in conflict, deemed it "a calculated tool of terror aimed at the extermination and removal of the Rohingya as a group." Myanmar's government has denied any instances of sexual assault. Several officials have suggested that Rohingya women are too unattractive to merit attention from Tatmadaw soldiers.

URGE ongoing attention to systematic violence against female Rohingya refugees

- **Filippo Grandi**, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, c/o Ms. Ninette Kelley, UNHCR, 220 East 42nd Street, Suite 3000, NY, NY 10017, (212) 963-0032
- **Secretary of State Rex Tillerson**, US Department of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520, main switchboard 202-647-4000
- **Senator Bob Corker**, Chair, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 425 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3344
- **Senator Ben Cardin**, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 509 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4524

4. Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló has ordered a review and recount of the death toll of Hurricane Maria, according to the *New York Times*. The official death toll from the September hurricane is 64 people, but a *New York Times* analysis found that the actual count was likely to be well over 1,000.

THANKS for ordering this review to

• **Governor Ricardo Roselló**, La Fortaleza, P.O. Box 9020082, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902-0082, (787) 721-7000

ASK for an investigation into the actual death toll in Puerto Rico and the overall quality of the US response to Hurricane María

• **Acting Inspector General John Kelly**, Office of the Inspector General/Mail Stop 0305, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane SW, Washington DC 20528-0305, 202-254-4100

• **William B. Long**, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20472, general operator (202) 646-2500

• **Senator Ron Johnson** (R-WI), Chair, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 328 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-5323

• **Senator Claire McCaskill** (D-MO), Ranking Member, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, 503 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-6154

• **Representative Michael McCaul** (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2001 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2401

• **Representative Bennie Thompson** (D-MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, 2466 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5876

• **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

• **Senator Kamala Harris** (D-CA), 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3553

• **Representative Jimmy Panetta** (D-CA), 228 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2861

5. According to the *Lancet*, a highly respected medical publication 1 in 4 Syrians killed in the nation's civil war is a child, and most are killed by bombs in urban areas. According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, more than 5,300 civilians were killed in the war from January through June 2017. The organization attributed 1008 of those killings to International Coalition forces and another 641 to Russian forces.

DEMAND that the U.S. do all it can to protect Syrian civilian populations both in the conflict and as refugees

• **Secretary of State Rex Tillerson**, US Department of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520, main switchboard 202-647-4000

• **Senator Bob Corker**, Chair, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 425 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3344

• **Senator Ben Cardin**, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 509 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4524

- **Senator Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, 135 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3744
- **Senator Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3841

6. Despite nationwide protests, in which 31 people have died, and widespread allegations of fraud, the United States State Department has recognized the election of Juan Orlando Hernández as President of Honduras. The Organization of American States and US legislators have called for new, fair elections.

THANKS for supporting fair elections in Honduras to

- **Senator Patrick Leahy** (D-VT), 437 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4242
 - **Senator Ben Cardin** (D-MD), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 509 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4524
 - **Representative Eliot Engel** (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, 2462 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2464
 - **Senator Tim Kaine** (D-VA), Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 231 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4024
 - **Representative Jan Schakowski** (D-IL), 2367 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-2111
 - **Senator Jeff Merkley** (D-OR), Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 313 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-3753
- CRITICISM** for honoring tainted election results to
- **Secretary of State Rex Tillerson**, US Department of State, 2201 C St. NW, Washington DC 20520, main switchboard 202-647-4000

HEALTH

1. One of the unexpected consequences of Hurricane María is a shortage of IV bags, saline fluid, and some prescription medications—all of which were produced in Puerto Rico. If simple human decency isn't enough to get us working more effectively to help with Puerto Rico's recovery, perhaps we can find a motivation in self-interest.

REQUEST that officials connected to our healthcare system keep working to see that Puerto Rico gets the support it needs

- **Acting Secretary Eric D. Hargan**, Health and Human Services
- **VADM Jerome M. Adams, MD, MPH**, Surgeon General
- **Robert Kadlec, MD**, Acting Secretary for Preparedness and Response
- **Daniel R. Levinson**, Inspector General

ALL of the above can be reached at

Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, call center (877) 696-6775

- **Senator Lamar Alexander** (R-TN), Chair, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 405 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4944

- **Senator Patty Murray** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 154 Russell Senate Office Building. Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2621
- **Senator Patrick J. Toomey** (R-PA), Chair, Finance Subcommittee on Healthcare, 248 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4254
- **Senator Debbie Stabenow** (D-MI), Ranking Member, Finance Subcommittee on Healthcare, 731 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4822
- **Representative Pat Tiberi** (R-OH), Chair, Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health, 1203 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-5355
- **Representative Sander Levin** (D-MI), Ranking Member, Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health, 1236 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-4961
- **Representative Tom Cole** (R-OK), Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, 2467 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-6165
- **Representative Rosa DeLauro** (D-CT), Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, 2431 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, (202) 225-3661

2. The White House has fired all members of the President’s Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). Created in 1995, PACHA is responsible for “providing information, advice, and recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding programs, policies, and research to promote effective treatment, prevention, and cure of HIV disease and AIDS.” The current administration also has not appointed a director of the Office of National AIDS Policy and has proposed and \$800 million cut to HIV/AIDS programs.

INSIST on a fully staffed, scientifically informed HIV/AIDS Council

- **Donald Trump**, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20500, (202) 456-1111
- **Acting Secretary Eric D. Hargan**, Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20201, call center (877) 696-6775
- **Senator Lamar Alexander** (R-TN), Chair, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 405 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-4944
- **Senator Patty Murray** (D-WA), Ranking Member, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 154 Russell Senate Office Building. Washington DC 20510, (202) 224-2621